

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information adding apparatus for adding additional information to an image file which contains a first table constructed of a table entry group to which index values are allocated, color information being defined to the respective table entries, and also contains image data in which the index values of said table entry group are set as color information of the respective pixels constituting an image, comprising:

a table producing unit producing a table entry of a second table based upon the table entry of said first table; and

an image data producing unit specifying a table entry of a table in correspondence with said additional information as to each of the pixels for constituting said image, and producing image data in which an index value corresponding to said specified table entry is set.

2. An information adding apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein:

said table producing unit produces said second table in which the table entry group of said first table is copied in order to become power of 2 in response to a bit number of a unit bit which constitutes a unit in such a case that an array of bits indicative of said additional information is allocated to the respective pixels.

3. An information extracting apparatus for extracting additional information contained in an image file which should be processed,

comprising:

a table analyzing unit segmenting a table entry group of a table in which color information is defined in correspondence with an index value into a plurality of table entry groups, said table entry groups of the table being contained in said image file; and

an information extracting unit specifying said table entry groups which are allocated as to the respective index values set to the respective pixels of the image data contained in said image file, and acquiring values corresponding to the specified table entry groups to thereby produce additional information.

4. An information extracting apparatus as claimed in claim 3 wherein:

said information extracting unit acquires a value of a unit bit corresponding to said specified table entry group every pixel of said image data, and arranges the acquired unit bits in a predetermined order so as to produce an array of bits representative of said additional information.

5. An information extracting apparatus as claimed in claim 3, further comprising:

a restoring unit restoring both said table and said image data into such conditions thereof obtained before the additional information is added, after the additional information has been produced by said information extracting unit.

6. An information adding method for adding additional information

to an image file which contains a first table constructed of a table entry group to which index values are allocated, color information being defined to the respective table entries, and also contains image data in which the index values of said table entry group are set as color information of the respective pixels constituting an image, comprising:

producing a table entry of a second table based upon the table entry of said first table; and

specifying a table entry of a table in correspondence with said additional information as to each of the pixels for constituting said image, and producing image data in which an index value corresponding to said specified table entry is set.

7. An information adding method as claimed in claim 6 wherein:

in the producing the table entry of said second table, said second table is produced in which the table entry group of said first table is copied in order to become power of 2 in response to a bit number of a unit bit which constitutes a unit in such a case that an array of bits indicative of said additional information is allocated to the respective pixels.

8. An information extracting method for extracting additional information contained in an image file which should be processed, comprising:

segmenting a table entry group of a table in which color information is defined in correspondence with an index value into

a plurality of table entry groups, said table entry groups of the table being contained in said image file; and

specifying said table entry groups which are allocated as to the respective index values set to the respective pixels of the image data contained in said image file, and acquiring values corresponding to the specified table entry groups to thereby produce additional information.

9. An information extracting method as claimed in claim 8 wherein:

in the producing said additional information, a value of a unit bit corresponding to said specified table entry group is acquired every pixel of said image data, and arranges the acquired unit bits in a predetermined order so as to produce an array of bits representative of said additional information.

10. An information extracting method as claimed in claim 8, further comprising:

restoring both said table and said image data into such conditions thereof obtained before the additional information is added, after the additional information has been produced by said information extracting unit.

11. A computer readable recording medium for recording thereon a computer program used to cause a computer to execute a process operation for adding additional information to an image file which contains a first table constructed of a table entry group to which index values are allocated, color information being defined to the

respective table entries, and also contains image data in which the index values of said table entry group are set as color information of the respective pixels constituting an image,

said recording medium recording thereon such a program capable of causing the computer to execute:

a step for producing a table entry of a second table based upon the table entry of said first table; and

a step for specifying a table entry of a table in correspondence with said additional information as to each of the pixels for constituting said image, and for producing image data in which an index value corresponding to said specified table entry is set.

12. A recording medium as claimed in claim 11 wherein:

said recording medium records thereon said program by which in the step for producing the table entry of said second table, said second table is produced in which the table entry group of said first table is copied in order to become power of 2 in response to a bit number of a unit bit which constitutes a unit in such a case that an array of bits indicative of said additional information is allocated to the respective pixels.

13. A computer readable recording medium for recording thereon a computer program used to cause a computer to execute a process operation for extracting additional information contained in an image file which should be processed,

said recording medium recording thereon such a program capable

of causing the computer to execute:

a step for segmenting a table entry group of a table in which color information is defined in correspondence with an index value into a plurality of table entry groups, said table entry groups of the table being contained in said image file; and

a step for specifying said table entry groups which are allocated as to the respective index values set to the respective pixels of the image data contained in said image file, and for acquiring values corresponding to the specified table entry groups to thereby produce additional information.

14. A recording medium as claimed in claim 13 wherein:

said recording medium records thereon said program by which in the step for producing said additional information, a value of a unit bit corresponding to said specified table entry group is acquired every pixel of said image data, and arranges the acquired unit bits in a predetermined order so as to produce an array of bits representative of said additional information.

15. A recording medium as claimed in claim 13 wherein:

said recording medium records thereon said program which further comprises a step for restoring both said table and said image data into such conditions thereof obtained before the additional information is added, after the additional information has been produced by said information extracting unit.

16. A computer readable recording medium for recording thereon

an image file to which additional information is added, wherein:

said image file contains both a table and image data;

said table is constituted of a plurality of table entry groups to which color information corresponding to index values is set respectively;

said image data holds index values corresponding to colors of respective pixels which represent an image; and

said recording medium records thereon such an image file that the respective index values correspond to color information identical to color information corresponding to the respective index values which are set to the respective pixels of original image data, said original image data being equal to such image data to which a value corresponding to any one of said plurality of table entry groups is set in response to the additional information, and also before the additional information is added.